REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Husick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,675,788) (hereinafter "Husick") in view of Ball et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,860,071) (hereinafter "Ball"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner relies on col. 1, line 1-col. 2, line 55, col. 5, line 5, col. 6, lines 18-22 in light of col. 5, lines 64-67, and Figure 6 of Ball as teaching "periodically circulating at a specified time the plurality of registered favorite sites *to collect information*," as claimed in claim 1. Col. 64-67 of Ball teaches each page stores a frequency value determining how often the page should be checked. Col. 6, lines 19-21 Ball teaches that a robot periodically checks the pages for updates according to the frequency value. Col. 6, lines 2-3 of Ball teaches that changes to pages can be reported to the user upon a user request or through email notification. Nothing in the recited portions of Ball indicate that any information is collected during the periodic checks for updates by the robot. The sole purpose of the periodic checks in Ball is to check for periodic updates. Even assuming, *arguendo*, that information is collected by Ball during the periodic checks, nothing in Ball or Husick, alone or in combination, indicates that such information was known to be used in Husick in the manner suggested by the Examiner (e.g., in the subject lexicon generation process flow 1100 and the subject lexicon generation system 1200 of Husick).

Although it is unclear exactly what the Examiner proposes to be the "collected information" from the "plurality of registered favorite sites," as claimed in claim 1, we assume solely purposes of further argument that such collected information exists.

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The Examiner relies on Figures 11 and 12 of <u>Husick</u> as teaching "selecting words from the collected information," as claimed in claim 1. As described in col. 33, lines 19-26 of <u>Husick</u>, Figures 11 and 12 show the process for *generating subject lexicons*. Because the Examiner does not provide any explanation for the citations to Figures 11 and 12, Applicants are left with no other choice but to assume that the Examiner intends for the subject lexicons to be the "selected set of words" as essentially in claim 1. Although Applicants respectfully disagree, we will assume this to be true for the sake of argument.

The Examiner relies on Figure 10 and col. 32, line 55-col. 33, line 15 of <u>Husick</u> as teaching "clustering the selected set of words with a strong inclusion relation," as claimed in claim 1. Figure 10 describes an automatic docket subject system that does not teach or suggest any sort of clustering of the subject lexicons.

The Examiner relies on col. 33, line 15-col. 35, line 25 of <u>Husick</u> as teaching "wherein the step of clustering comprises degenerating the selected set of words," as claimed in claim 1. The recited portion of <u>Husick</u> does not teach or suggest *degenerating* the subject lexicons. The Examiner notes that discriminator weights are determined for each classifier word in the subject lexicon (<u>Husick</u>, col. 34, lines 7-9). However, this still does not explain how the Examiner proposes that the subject lexicons (or any other words for that matter) are degenerated.
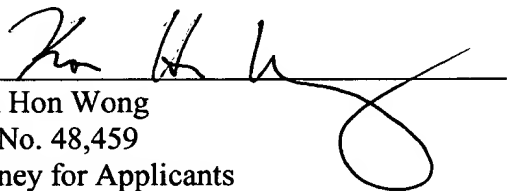
With regard to claim 6, the Examiner did not address "determining an index of a capacity for individual sites in the favorite sites to supply topics based on the significance of said words."

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Accordingly, claim 1 believed to be patentably distinguishable and nonobvious over the combination of Husick and Ball. Independent claims 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18 and 19 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons provided for claim 1. Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 9-10, 12-13, 15 and 17 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons at least the reasons given for the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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